

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) An entertainment system comprising:

a unit configured to transmit information and to receive information via a wireless connection, wherein the unit is further configured to receive a signal from a service provider indicating the beginning of an interactive function; and

a plurality of hand-held devices configured to simultaneously communicate with said unit, wherein each hand-held device of the plurality of hand-held devices comprises:

a control unit configured to:
..... interact with an electronic programming guide (EPG) wherein selective programming of a first hand-held device of the plurality of hand-held devices is communicated to one or more other hand-held devices of the plurality of hand-held devices, and
..... receive the signal indicating the beginning of an interactive function from the unit; and
an indicator, separate from the EPG, configured to indicate an availability of an interactive function in a program corresponding to the EPG in response to receiving the signal from the unit without providing an indication of the availability of the interactive function on a display configured to display the program corresponding to the EPG, the display being separate from the plurality of hand-held devices.

Claim 2: (Previously Presented) The entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the indicator is displayed on a display of the first hand-held device.

Claim 3: (Previously Presented) The entertainment system of claim 2, wherein the display of the first hand-held device changes background colors to indicate the availability of the interactive function corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) The entertainment in system of claim 2, wherein ~~the display or one or more components other than the display~~ of the first hand-held device flashes to indicate the availability of the interactive function in the program corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 5: (Previously Presented) The entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the first hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 6: (Previously Presented) The entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the first hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 7: (Currently Amended) The entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the indicator ~~is configured to generate~~ includes a sound generated by the hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive function in the program corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 8: (Previously Presented) The entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the indicator is configured to illuminate to indicate the availability of the interactive function in the program corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 9: (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~transmitting information and receiving, at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices, programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device is transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;~~

~~receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device;~~

~~transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;~~

~~receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive function during the selected program; and~~

~~in response to the signal, indicating, through the mobile hand-held device, an availability of the interactive function simultaneously to and from a plurality of hand-held devices, the information corresponding to interactions with an electronic programming guide (EPG), wherein the interactions with an EPG of a first hand-held device is communicated to one or more other hand-held devices of the plurality of hand-held devices; and~~

~~indicating an availability of an interactive function in a program corresponding to the EPG at the first hand-held device without indicating the availability of the interactive function on a display separate from the plurality of hand-held devices, the display configured to display the program corresponding to the EPG.~~

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes displaying an indicator on a display of the first mobile hand-held device.

Claim 11: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the ~~first mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive function in the~~
~~program corresponding to the EPG.~~

Claim 12: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes ~~at least one button the display of the first mobile hand-held device flashing to indicate the availability of the interactive function in the program~~
~~corresponding to the EPG.~~

Claim 13: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~first mobile hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.~~

Claim 14: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~first mobile hand-held device is a web phone.~~

Claim 15: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes ~~generating a sound by the mobile hand-held device.~~

Claim 16: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes illuminating a section of the ~~first mobile hand-held device other than the display of the mobile hand-held device.~~

Claim 17: (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions, which when executed cause a system to perform a method comprising:

receiving, at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices, programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device is transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;

receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device;

transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive function during the selected program, and

in response to the signal, indicating, through the mobile hand-held device, an availability of the interactive function, transmitting information and receiving information via a wireless connection simultaneously to and from a plurality of hand-held devices, the information corresponding to interactions with an electronic programming guide (EPG), wherein an interaction of a first hand-held device of the plurality of hand-held devices is communicated to one or more other hand-held devices of the plurality of hand-held devices; and

indicating an availability of an interactive function in a program corresponding to the EPG simultaneously at said plurality of hand-held devices without indicating the availability of the interactive function at a display separate from the plurality of hand-held devices, the display configured to display the program corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 18: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes displaying an indicator on a display of the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device.

Claim 19: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes ~~the display at least one button~~ of the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device flashing.

Claim 21: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 23: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes generating a sound by the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive function ~~in the program~~ corresponding to the EPG.

Claim 24: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function includes illuminating a section of the ~~first~~ mobile hand-held device other than the display to indicate the availability of the interactive function ~~in the program corresponding to the EPG.~~

Claim 25: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function is performed ~~in response to the interactive function becoming available~~ during a display of the program on a display separate from the plurality of mobile hand-held devices.

Claim 26: (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim ~~17~~ 25, wherein whether an indication of the availability of the interactive function is provided to the display separate from the plurality of hand-held devices is configurable through the ~~first mobile~~ hand-held device.

Claim 27: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~at least one of the interactions received at the mobile hand-held device~~ the information corresponding to interactions with an electronic programming guide (EPG) includes user comments.

Claim 28: (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the signal is received after a start of the selected program.